

ABOUT US

The eZasegagasini Metro is the official eThekweni Municipality publication through which ratepayers and residents are informed of news, entertainment and perspectives in the greater Durban region.

It is also a forum for readers' views. It hits the streets fortnightly on a Friday, with 400 000 copies distributed throughout the region.

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SIFISO XULU

CITY Manager Michael Sutcliffe will deliver the keynote address at the Business Retention and Expansion Programme on 9 October at the Engen Refinery Auditorium from 8am to 10.30am.

This is the third phase of the programme – a partnership between the South Durban Basin Area Based Management Team (SDB ABM), the

Sutcliffe to address SDB group

Durban Investment Promotion Agency (Dipa) and the Chamber of Business and Industry.

The third phase of the programme is focusing on businesses in Jacobs, Rossburgh, Mobeni, Clairwood, Austerville, Wentworth and Merebank.

Other speakers will be Chamber President Moses Tembe, Acting Chief Executive of Dipa Russell Curtis, and Area Manager of the SDB, Lee D'Eathe.

Curtis said: "The programme was well implemented in Prospecton and Congela. This is the third and

the last phase of it as we have divided the Basin into three major areas."

D'Eathe said: "The BR&E programme gives companies an opportunity to raise concerns about the local business environment. It broadens community awareness and involvement in

economic development. It allows development organisations to work in a collective and co-operative manner."

Any business that falls within the South Durban Basin area is invited to attend the launch. It will give them an opportunity to network with other businesses in the area.

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Warning: Bogus inspector

SAMANTHA MOODLEY

THE Municipality's Legal Services unit has warned residents to be wary of a man posing as a Council inspector and duping people out of large sums of money with the promise of processing their business licences.

Council Chief Inspector Dees Sooknunan said complaints had been received from people in the Belvedere and Tongaat area that a bogus inspector (whose name is known to the eZasegagasini Metro) has been producing an eThekweni Municipality appointment card, claiming to be the Director of eThekweni business licence consultants.

He has allegedly threatened business owners with closure unless they apply for licenses. He allegedly asks for about R1 500 to make applications on behalf of his victims.

Sooknunan said the bogus inspector had been found with a Council appointment card and business cards.

The matter has been referred to the Tongaat SAPS and a case was pending. The man in question was previously employed by the Council but his services were terminated in 2007 after he was found guilty of corruption.

Sooknunan urged residents

to be cautious and follow the correct procedure when applying for a business license.

The business owner needs to complete an application form available from the licensing department and all Sizakala centres.

This is to be returned to a Sizakala centre, accompanied by a landlord's consent if the applicant is not the owner of the premises, a copy of the applicant's ID or CC documents and the R228 application fee.

fingerprints

A copy of fingerprints are required if it is an Item 2 application – for health facilities or entertainment business.

Once the application is processed, the relevant departments (fire, police, health, building and town planning) will do inspections and request compliance.

Once the requirements have been met, the departments will report to the licensing department and the licence is then granted or refused.

Tuck shops in residential areas need to apply for special consent from town planning before applying for a business licence.

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WAY TO GO



MAYOR Obed Mlaba (centre) meets Capetonians David Grier (48) and Braam Malherbe (51). The two are running the coastline of South Africa to raise funds for Operation Smile South Africa, a non-profit organisation that facilitates corrective surgery for children born with cleft lips, palates and other craniofacial deformities. They started the run on 1 July in Oranjemund, Namibia, and reached Durban last weekend (27 September) having completed more than 2 600km. They aim to finish in Mozambique's Ponto do Ouro on 8 October, a total of more than 3 000km

Picture: MANDLA NSELE

Jobless learn to make furniture

DERRICK DLAMINI and THEMBA KHUMALO

A "GIANT leap forward for the local furniture industry" – that was how Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo described the recent graduation of 30 unemployed young people from the first phase of a ground-breaking furniture manufacturing programme.

"This programme is part of ensuring that those who are trapped in poverty move out and enjoy a better quality of life," Naidoo said.

Those who received certificates were from the Inanda/Ntuzuma/ KwaMashu (INK) area and the initiative is a joint effort by several Municipal departments and the local Area Based Management team.

The awards ceremony was held at the Furniture Technology Centre (FurnTech), which provides business technology incubation facilities and training to the

furniture and wood products industries.

The students were trained in furniture manufacturing, upholstery and wood finishing, all at the nationally-recognised NQF Level 2.

Head of City's Economic Development Unit, Shunnon Tulsiram, said: "To cope with global competition in this industry, we need to ensure we have the skills."

Officials at the ceremony described the programme as crucial for the development of the local economy. Calls were made for women to play more active roles in the furniture industry.

The Bridge City and KwaMashu Town Centre projects were identified as big opportunities for shopfitting services in retail and office developments.

"These will provide business opportunities for this sector," said Thomas Mketelwa of the City's Skills Development Unit.



PROUD MOMENT: Congratulating student Richard Zulu (centre) on graduating are Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo, the City's Head of Skills Development Gugu Mji, FurnTech Director, Advocate Sigodi, and FurnTech CEO Michael Reddy

Picture: THEMBA KHUMALO

FurnTech Chief Executive Michael Reddy said more must be done to address the skills shortage in the industry.

Phila Biyela, a KwaMashu-based student, said he had been clueless about the furniture industry until he came to FurnTech. "Today, I'm a business-minded youth and looking forward to making this knowledge and expertise work to my advantage. We

thank the Municipality and its partners for shaping our future," Biyela said.

Dignitaries present included Protas Madlala, Chief Executive of the Small Enterprise Development Agency; Linda Mbonambi of the INK ABM, and Gugu Mji, Head of the City's Skills Development Unit.

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Airport greening

DURBAN International Airport may be moving to La Mercy in 2010 but that hasn't stopped the City and South Durban businesses from teaming up to plant trees in the area.

"The airport is moving, but there was no reason not to beautify the surroundings with new indigenous trees," said Airports Company of South Africa (Acsa) Public Relations Manager Colin Naidoo.

"The trees were planted along the vehicle exit route and will leave a pretty legacy."

The plantings were part of the recent **Arbour Week** celebrations and were a joint effort by the Municipality's South Durban Basin (SDB) Area Based Management Team, Acsa, Mondi and Durban Solid Waste.

Area Manager Lee D'Eathe said: "The SDB has forged partnerships with businesses and communities to protect the natural places found in the area." – Sifiso Xulu